

Home Circle

Why Do We Wait?

Why do we wait till ears are deaf
Before we speak our kindly word,
And only utter loving praise
When not a whisper can be heard?

Why do we wait till hands are laid
Close-folded, pulseless, ere we place
Within them roses sweet and rare,
And lillies in their flawless grace?

Why do we wait till eyes are sealed
To light and love in death's deep trance—
Dear, wistful eyes—before we bend
Above them with impassioned glance?

Why do we wait till hearts are still
To tell them all the love in ours,
And give them such late meed of praise,
And lay above them fragrant flowers?

How oft we, careless, wait till life's
Sweet opportunities are past,
And break our "alabaster box
Of ointment" at the very last!

Oh, let us heed the living friend
Who walks with us life's common ways,
Watching our eyes for look of love,
And hungering for a word of praise!

—Our Young Folks.

Ashamed to Tell Mother

Exchange.

"Such was a little boy's reply to his comrade, who was trying to tempt him to do wrong.

"But you need not tell her; no one will know anything about it."

"I would know all about it myself, and I'd feel mighty mean if I couldn't tell mother."

"It's a pity you wasn't a girl. The idea of a boy running and telling his mother every little thing!

"You may laugh if you want to," said the noble boy, but I've made up my mind never, as long as I live, to do any thing I would be ashamed to tell mother."

Such a noble resolve will make almost any life true and useful.

The Grumbler's Niche

Christian Standard.

"Just see, papa! I made all this today," said a tiny girl, holding up an awkward bit of work.

"Well, I don't care anything about that, child," said the father.

I expected to see the child burst into tears, but she went away quite tranquilly. She was so used to such treatment that it did not surprise or hurt her any more.

That father prided himself on his kindness to his children. It was his boast that he never struck one of the whole five. What would he have said if he had been told that his words injured that child as much as a beating would? Although he never scolded or said rough things, but was continually manifesting a lack of sympathy with the little ones. The blows were falling directly on loving childish hearts.

He often wondered why the older children never took him into their plans. He loved his children dearly; he would have enjoyed being a companion of the big boys and girls, but he had turned them away again and

again when they were tiny children, and he might have obtained the key to their hearts.

O fathers and mothers, come into the lives of your children when you can sympathize with the little men and women. Take time to be interested in their affairs, and then you will be spared the bitter pain of being shut out of their confidence, and feeling that they have grown away from you, when they most need you.

Wanted, Boys!

Presbyterian.

The saloon must have boys, or it must shut up shop.

"Wanted—2,000,000 boys!" is the notice. One family out of every five must contribute a boy to keep up the supply. Will you help? Which of your boys will it be? The Minotaur of Crete had to have a trireme full of fair maidens each year; but the Minotaur of America demands a city full of boys each year. Are you a father? Have you contributed a boy? If not, some other family has had to give more than its share. Are you not selfish, voting to keep the saloon open to grind up boys, and then doing nothing to keep up the supply?

Honoring Father and Mother

Rev. Dr. Cuyler.

One of the most touching scenes in any biography is that of the great Dr. Samuel Johnson, in his old age, standing bareheaded, on a rainy day, in the market place of Uttoxeter to do penance for having disobeyed his father when a boy.

Filial reverence is one of the best evidences of a sound heart. There is not the slightest hope of any wholesome religious and soul converting influence in any family where the parental authority is trampled under foot.

The word "honor," is very deep and strong; it takes hold of the heart, and roots down into the core of the heart. It amounts, as the twelfth chapter of Hebrews tells us, to "reverence," and this, too, when parents are inflicting wise and loving chastisement. The surest way for parents to forfeit the respect of their children is to be too weak, or too indolent, or too unprincipled, to maintain a corrective discipline. Parents must deserve to be honored, and they have a right to expect and to require loving and loyal obedience.

What the law on Sinai commanded is re-enacted in the New Testament. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Filial obedience is thus made a part and parcel of Christian piety. It ought to be prompt; it ought to be cheerful; it ought to be without protest.

General Havelock once rose from his table and exclaimed: "I left my boy on London Bridge, and told him to wait there till I came back?" He hastened to the spot, and there the brave boy was, and had been for several hours! Such obedience was the groundwork of a noble character.

That was a wise advertisement, "Wanted—a boy who always obeys his mother."

The mark of Christian obedience is to follow parental counsels, even when they "go against the grain," and require painful sacrifice or self-denial. If a parent has a divine right to correct, it is the filial duty to submit to correction. "A wise son heareth his father's correction; but a scorner heareth not rebuke." "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him."

Our Young People

TRUTHS TAUGHT BY CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:8-20

Topic for Dec. 25.

Of all the good days of the year Christmas is the best. We look forward to it eagerly and remember it fondly when it is gone. It is the time for family reunions, for special religious services and for a general revival of goodness. It is a time for everybody to do something good to somebody else. There is an old legend that at Christmas time satan is robbed of his power for a little while so that everybody may be unselfish and kind. However there is a tendency to make this day as other holidays, a day of mere feasting and jollity without serious meditation upon its significance. It is right that we should be happy but we must also be reverent. A holy day robbed of its meaning may become a curse instead of a blessing. In this lesson we will bring to mind the message of Christmas and some of the things which Christ's coming meant to the world. The scripture references should be explained as well as read so that their connection with the topic may be understood.

CHRISTMAS LESSONS

- 1 God's love, 1 John 4:9-14.
- 2 A new rule for men—not getting but giving, John 3:16; Acts 20:35; Matt. 5:42.
- 3 Peace on earth, Isa. 9:6; Luke 2:14.
- 4 Spiritual life, John 17:3; John 10:10.
- 5 Joy, Rom. 14:17; Luke 2:10.
- 6 Righteousness, John 15:22; 1 John 2:6.
- 7 Good will to men, Ps. 85:8; Rev. 22:17.
- 8 Glory to God, Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:20; Rev. 21:24-26.

FOR OPEN DISCUSSION

- 1 Why do we celebrate Christmas?
- 2 What does Christmas teach those who are not Christians?
- 3 What does Christmas mean to poor people?
- 4 Why does Christmas stand for joy in the world?
- 5 What can children learn from Christmas?
- 6 What would the world be without Christmas?
- 7 How should Christmas be observed?

Let everybody answer.—What is the most blessed truth that Christmas brings to you?

NOTE.—Why cannot our societies both junior and senior learn best the true spirit of Christmas by each bringing a gift of some sort and sending the whole to the poor or to our city missions? An offering in money would be equally good.

C. F. YODER.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Endeavorers: I am very sorry that I can not write much to you for the next few weeks. Many of you know somewhat the extent of my work. But so far I have succeeded in giving my Thursdays to this work. (Thursday is rest day in the University.) But now I am to begin a series of services at Fairview that will continue for at least three weeks. Will not endeavorers everywhere place one petition in their daily prayers for this series of services and for your president? We have many young people in our neighborhood that are not Christians. I am es-